



# **MILLENNIUM DIGGERS ASSOCIATION Keizer, Oregon**



Secretary/Editor: Penny Esplin

**\*PRESIDENT: Ken Orndorff\***

**\*VICE PRESIDENT: Terrie Fox\***

**\*TREASURER: Yvette Burkett\***

**\*CLAIMS OFFICER: Claudia Wise\***

## **Meeting Minutes from June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Call to Order:** Ken called the meeting to order and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Attendance:** After everyone had signed in, we had a total of **14** members present.

**Secretary's Report:** Penny finished writing up May's minutes, brought 2 copies and said she would email them to our members shortly. A motion was made to accept minutes as stated, was seconded and passed by all.

**Treasurer's Report:** Yvette read her report, our bank account looks good. Claudia was reimbursed for her purchase of the tent and hamburgers for Miner's Meadow. Wes made a motion to accept, Penny seconded and was passed by all.

**Claims Report:** Claudia was not present. But, members that have been to any of our claims need to fill out the **maintenance work report** (either print off the one here in this email or the forms will be available at our meetings). Prospecting is considered part of the maintenance, as well as clearing trails, cleaning up site, improving access, etc. We fill them out and give them to Claudia **before the end of August**, so she can use them for us to qualify for the Maintenance Fee Waiver Certificate to send to BLM. (And the Affidavit of Annual Assessment, due at the end of the year, but she sends to BLM at the same time).

John Stepisnik and Don Esch both filled out forms and turned in to Penny.

**Miner's Meadow Outing Report:** from Penny: I wanted us to arrive at Miner's Meadow by noon on Thursday, but several complications delayed us getting there on time. We didn't get there until 6:00pm! And I was so keyed up, thinking that other campers from the Digger's might have been waiting there earlier for us to show up and unlock the gate! I had the code to get in. Well, I hoped nobody came earlier; I really had no way of knowing.

But, Walt, me and Terrie had the entire place to ourselves! And we brought Lodi along; I knew this would be his last camp trip. And he did enjoy himself, especially on Saturday, when everyone showed up for the potluck. He always loved company and food and being included. The 4 days we were there, the weather couldn't have been more perfect. We had a lot of great food for the pot luck; there were 9 of us total for that. And fortunately it had rained just prior to us getting there, so we were able to have a campfire each day! There was a nice pile of firewood left there from the WVM's outing the week before, the amount they left was perfect for

our needs, we were so grateful for that! Having a campfire just makes any camping trip so much better, and more complete, always.

A bald eagle made its presence known by freaking out the mother ducks and their babies. All the birds around would squawk and scream whenever the eagle flew by. Each morning, we woke up to hearing the blue jay's fluttering of wings and their scratching noise as they were hopping on our roof top and screeching at each other while scarfing down as much of Lodi's dog food as they could. I looked out the window of our canopy and saw 2 of them, each on either side of his bowl, bickering and pecking back and forth at each other; it was so comical! Their entire take was crazy: 2 cooked hamburger patties from off the picnic table, 3 doughnuts, a bunch of Lodi's dog food and they even tried to peck their way into Terrie's bag of Good n Plenty candy! I didn't quite count them, but I'm assuming there were at least 9 of them in that family of "camp robbers". I thought they were delightful.

We did find a little gold, a tiny piece here and there, and brought back some concentrates to pan out at home. We did a little metal detecting; Don found quite a few pennies and so did Ken. After we ate, Don brought his drone and flew it around and took some great photos with it, some from way up high above Miner's Meadow, and a couple photos of our group. It was so weird the way it hovered in front of us, like it was from outer space and was scanning us! That thing was so on cue; even though we knew Don was controlling it, it still seemed almost sinister (in a science fiction movie kind of way). **Please scroll down to the end to see the photos.**

**John Stepisnik (Pres. WVM) talked with us about Miner's Meadow.** WVM and M.Diggers may have a problem obtaining reservations for this next year. Since most of the camping areas along Quartzville Creek have been removed, Miner's Meadow has become a much desired spot, many interested parties wanting to to make reservations. Well, the reservation process for Miner's Meadow has been turned over to a company in New York! What? And they are being complete jackasses.

John said WVM wants to book Miner's Meadow for 10 days, and the Millennium Diggers could join together with WVM and split the cost. He and WVM's board members have already discussed this and wanted our opinion.

Many of the M.Digger's are also members of WVM and went to their campout just the week before the Diggers had ours.

At our camp trip, Penny, Walt and Terrie were the only campers, and had the entire camping area to themselves for 3 days. The other Diggers members, (7), showed up on Sat. for the potluck, and then left that day. Total present for the potluck was **9** (nine). Saturday night and Sunday the camping trio had it all to themselves again, and that's a big area! But during the potluck, several of us, including our President (Ken), Vice President (Terrie), Treasurer (Yvette) and Secretary (Penny) and Don, we all agreed that it only makes sense to partner up with WVM for this camp trip.

He also said that the forest ranger for Sweethome Ranger district is looking into maybe creating a group camping area up above Canal Creek just for us miners. We will have to wait to hear about any progress in that idea. Also, he heard that BLM may possibly turn Miner's Meadow over to Lane County, and that would make the reservations place in New York go "bye-bye".

He was hoping that Claudia would be here tonight so he could hear her thoughts on either combining and/or splitting the cost of Miner's Meadow.

So, at tonight's meeting, Don made a motion that we, the M.Digger's, join up with WVM for this next year's Miners Meadow campout, and split the cost of the reservation for 10 days in June 2020. Wes seconded and we were all in favor, the motion was accepted and passed.

John said he will confirm this decision with the board members of WVM and we can talk again after they have their meeting on Thurs July 18<sup>th</sup>.

-Ken said we need to get some placards made up for our members showing proof as the claim owners so we can have access to all our claims. Penny had included 2 examples at our last meeting, and we all decided on this one (see below):

(please scroll down)

**This certifies that:** \_\_\_\_\_

**is a valid mining claim owner and is  
an active member of:**



**MILLENNIUM DIGGERS  
ASSOCIATION  
Keizer, Oregon**



**For the year 2019**

*"We are mining claim owners with prior existing use of this parking area within our claim boundaries, which pre-dates the area's county use parking fee"*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**President**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Treasurer**

Chuck asked about metal detecting at Silver Creek Falls State Park, and do we have to have a permit? A lot of the permitting is "park specific". And so, different parks will have different requirements. Most of the time, they ask us to not leave any holes or evidence of our being there.

Tammy said that the Pioneer Village at the Clackamas Co. Fair is no longer part of the fair, it is being torn down. It has been replaced by a "dog show". So, the NW Prospectors are still planning to be there, they will have an awning instead of a tent, and only do demonstrations. It's a real burn. And Tammy said, if anyone asks us to make an appearance at the Marion Co. Fair, tell them "No!" That fair has a miserable attendance.

Penny mentioned that Barb forwarded an email to the Digger's about someone wanting one of us (or someone we know) that's an expert in metal detecting to make a showing at a booth at the State Fair this year. Someone in our group mentioned Gary of Capitol Prospecting. –So Penny said she would get a hold of him. **Update: Penny has contacted Gary about this request; he said he would do it.**

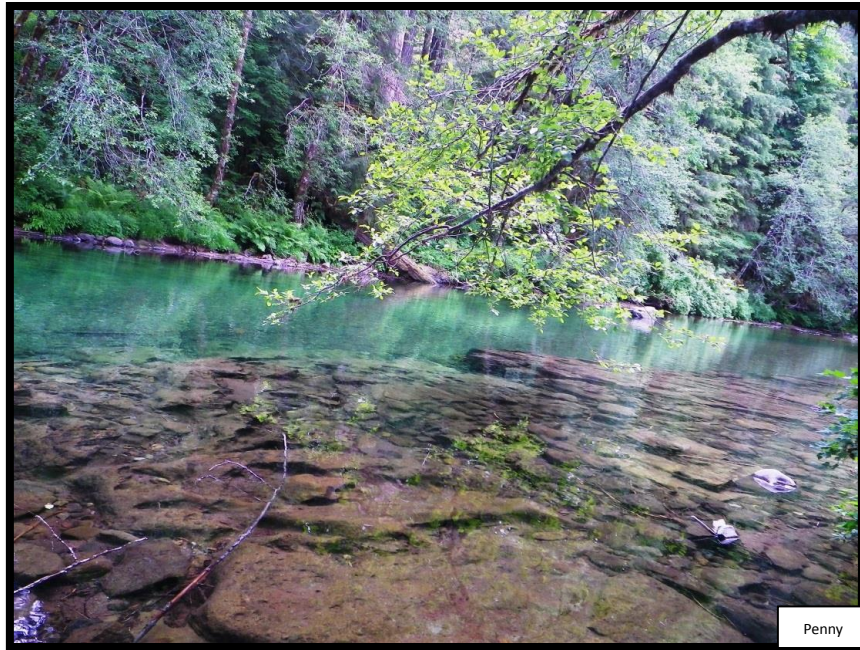
**BREAK TIME! And Raffle Ticket Sales: STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE TONIGHT!** Compliments of David Schmidt! We all look forward to this every year, and are so thankful for the wonderful treat. David really puts in some time making this for us, and it is so appreciated. Thank you David!

**Letters for June "K and L":** Delmon brought a jar with pink, green and yellow opal he bought from the Spectrum Mine (they got from friends in Nevada), and another jar with precious opals that came out of Nevada's Virgin Valley Opal mines (he bought at a yard sale). Don brought thundereggs, he called "Indescribably Incredible" (for tonight's letter he thought was "I"), from his Rojo thunderegg mine in the Ochoco's. Penny brought blue Kyanite, a few pieces of light green, pearly looking shards that must be a type of serpentine from Chrome Ridge above Galice. Also, from the quarry on Quartzville Creek, by Boulder Creek Bridge, some highly altered rock with pyrite and tourmaline needles. We were on the other side of the quarry cut from where Ken and Don went. They had got some nice specimens of picture rock. They also had found a piece of native sulphur that smelled really strong from the same quarry.

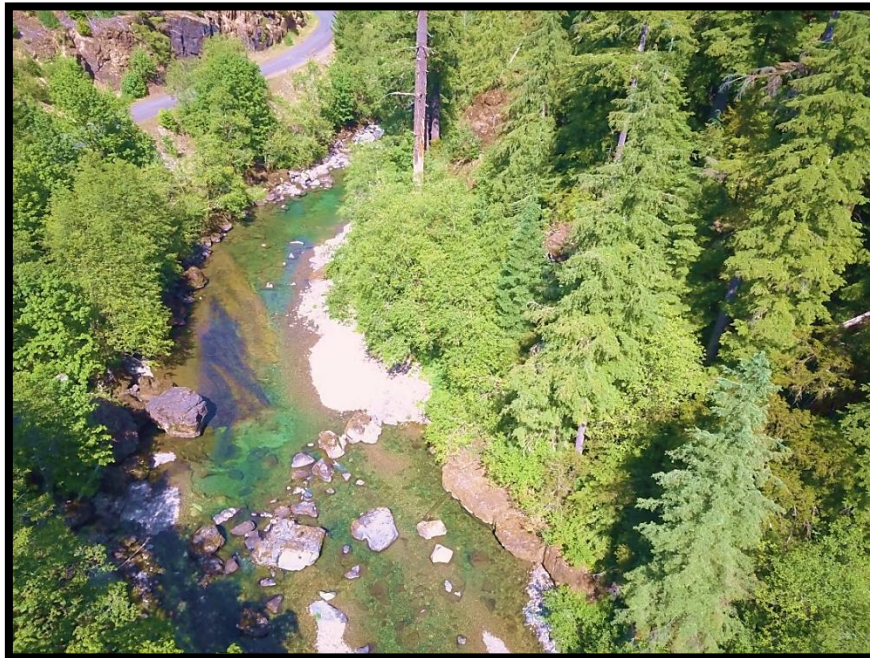
#### **Raffle Drawing**

#### **Meeting Adjourned**

**See below for photos from our outing at Miner's Meadow**



Quartzville Creek at Miner's Meadow



From Don's Drone: High above Quartzville Creek looking upstream from Miner's Meadow



Looking downstream above Miner's Meadow (Drone)



Miner's Meadow from on High! We're all down there on the left, looking up!



From Drone: Waaay up high above Quartzville Creek, Miner's Meadow



From Drone. Group shot, party of 9: From the left: Ken, Terrie, Yvette, Walt, Penny with Lodi, Larry (Kerry's friend), Kerry (Penny's friend), Chuck and Don in front (with the controls).



C'mon everybody! Wave at the Drone! This was our party of 9 at the potluck (just after we ate).

***Our next meeting is July 25th at 7:00***

Visit our website at <http://www.millenniumdiggers.com/>

**Our meetings are held at:**  
**Clear lake Methodist Church**  
**920 Marks Drive**  
**Keizer, Or**